

**IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

U.S. Appl. No.: 10/577,942 Confirmation No.: 5251  
Title: USE OF A HYDROGEL FOR THE CULTURE OF  
CHONDROCYTES  
Inventor(s): Pierre WEISS  
Filed: December 18, 2006  
Art Unit: 1651  
Examiner: Hanley, Susan Marie  
Docket No.: P08919US00/BAS  
Customer No.: 000881

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

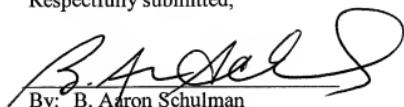
**Response to the Restriction Requirement of May 5, 2009**

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated May 5, 2009, and without addressing the positions of the Examiner therein, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-4, drawn to a silanized HEC or HMPC hydrogel product. In addition, to the extent required to complete the response, Applicants elect as a species a silanized HMPC hydrogel, and all claims read on this species.

In light of the response above, examination and allowance of the elected claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: June 3, 2009

By: B. Aaron Schulman  
Registration No.: 31,877

**STITES & HARBISON PLLC** • 1199 North Fairfax St. • Suite 900 • Alexandria, VA 22314  
TEL: 703-739-4900 • FAX: 703-739-9577 • CUSTOMER No. 000881